

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION.

Tuesday, November 26. 1706.

IN my last I complain'd of the Artifices of such Gentlemen, as in both Kingdoms oppose the Union, and of the monstrous Attempts they make both in Pamphlets, Speeches and Calculations, to amuse the World with Difficulties on both sides, and make the thing impracticable.

I gave a short Account of some Applications made in *Scotland* to the Parliament against an incorporate Union, and particularly came to the Address of the Burroughs, which because things are strangely represented in *England*, I shall here transcribe, and then make my Observation upon it.

They met at *Edinburgh*, Octo. 29. 1706. and upon Debate concerning Trade, they agreed upon the following Address against an incorporate Union.

To His Grace, Her Majesty's High Commissioner, and the Right Honourable the Estates of Parliament.

The ADDRESS of the Commissioners to the general Convention of the ROYAL BURROUGHS of this ancient Kingdom, convened the 29th. of October last, upon the great Concern of the Union proposed betwixt *Scotland* and *England*, for concerting such Measures, as should be esteem'd proper for them to take, with Relation to their TRADE, and other Concerns,

HUMBLY SHEWETH,

“ **T**HAT as by the *Claim of Right*, it is
 “ the Priviledge of all Subjects to
 “ Petition; so at this Time, being mostly
 “ im-

" impower'd by our *Constituents*; and
 " knowing the *Sentiments* of the People,
 " We represent : It is our indispenfible
 " *Duty* to fignifie to your Grace, and the
 " Honourable Estates of Parliament ; That
 " as We are not againft an Honourable and
 " Safe Union with *England*, confifting with
 " the *Being* of this Kingdom, and *Parlia-*
 " *ments* thereof : Without which, We con-
 " ceive neither our Religion, nor our Civil
 " *Interests* and Trade, as We now, by Law,
 " enjoy them, can be fecured to us and our
 " *Posterity*, far lefs can we expect to have
 " the Condition of the People of *Scotland*,
 " with Relation to thefe great Concerns,
 " made better and improved, without a
 " *Scots* Parliament.

" And feeing by the Articles of Union,
 " now under the Consideration of the Ho-
 " nourable Estates of Parliament, it is
 " agreed, that *Scotland* and *England* fhall
 " be united into one Kingdom, and that
 " the united Kingdoms be united by one
 " and the fame Parliament; by which, our
 " *Monarchy* is fuppreff'd, our *Parliaments*
 " extinguifhed; and in Confequence, our
 " Religion, Church-Government, Claim of
 " Right, Laws, Liberties, Trade, and all
 " that is dear to us, daily in Danger of be-
 " ing encroach'd upon, alter'd, and wholly
 " fubverted by the *Engliſh* in a *British* Par-
 " liament. Wherein the mean Reprefen-
 " tation allowed for *Scotland*, can never
 " fignifie in fecuring to US the *Interest* re-
 " ferved by US, or granted to US by the
 " *ENGLISH*.

" And by thefe Articles, our poor Peo-
 " ple are made liable to the *Engliſh* Taxes,
 " which is a certain, infupportable Bur-
 " then; confidering, that the Trade pro-
 " pofed is uncertain, involved, and wholly
 " precarious: Eſpecially when regulate as
 " to Export and Import according to the
 " Laws of *England*, and under the fame
 " Prohibitions and Reſtrictions, Customs
 " and Duties. And difcovering, that the
 " moſt confiderable Branches of our Trade
 " are differing from thoſe of *England*, and
 " are, and may be yet more discourag'd
 " by their Laws; and that all the Concerns
 " of Trade and our *Interest*, are, after the
 " Union, fubject to ſuch Alterations, as

" the Parliament of Great Britain fhall
 " think fit.

WE therefore ſupplicate your Grace,
 and the Honourable Estates of Par-
 liament; and do affuredly expect, that Ye
 will not conclude ſuch an incorporate U-
 nion, as is contained in the Articles pro-
 pofed : But that Ye will fupport and main-
 tain the true Reform'd Proteſtant Re-
 ligion and Church-Government, as by
 Law eſtabliſhed, The Sovereignty and
 Independency of this Crown and King-
 dom, and the Rights and Privileges of
 Parliament, which has been generously
 aſſerted by YOU in the ... Session of this
 preſent Parliament : And do further
 pray, that effectual Means may be uſed
 for defeating the Deſigns and Attempts of
 all Popiſh Pretenders whatſoever, to the
 Succeſſion of this Crown and Kingdom,
 and for ſecuring this Nation againſt all
 the Attempts and Incroachments that
 may be made by any Perſons whatſoever,
 upon the Sovereignty, Religion, Laws,
 Liberties, Trade and Quiet of the ſame.
 And WE promiſe to maintain with our
 Lives and Fortunes, all theſe valuable
 Things, in Oppoſition to all Popiſh and
 other Enemies whatſoever, according to
 our Laws and Claim of Right.

Signed by Order, and in Preſence
 of the Convention, by

Sam. M'clellan Preces.

I the rather publiſh this Addreſs, becauſe
 of a Calculation, which I ſhall make to fol-
 low it, and which may open the Eyes of
 ſome People, who think the Generality
 of the Kingdom of *Scotland* is concern'd in
 the Addreſſes againſt the Union, and as the
 publiſhing an Addreſs from *Lauder* with
 ſome Clauſes in the Flying- Poſt of Nov. 7th.
 Inſtant, ſeems to imply ſo much, I wiſh,
 that Gentleman, who, I hope, himſelf means
 well, to undeceive *England* in particular
 would inform himſelf of ſome of the follow-
 ing Particulars, and by ſetting things in a
 true Light, the Nation would beſomething
 leſs amuſed in a Caſe of ſuch Moment as
 this, and he would do a ſignal Service to
 both Kingdoms.

I. What

1. What Mannagement, what Party, and by what Methods, Addressees have been procured in all Parts of the Kingdom?
2. How that in particular, which he has publish'd, has been obtain'd, in whose Behalf?
3. Whether in an Address from the Shire of *Angus* in which it has been said, all the County join'd, there are not nine Parishes together in that Shire, out of which there was not one Man to be found, that would sign the Address?
4. How easie it would be for the Gentlemen on the other side to get as many Addressees for the Union; and what Difference there would be both in the Numbers and Quality of the Persons signing, if they thought it a proper Way of Proceeding?
5. If the Calculation of the Address of Burroughs hereafter be true, whether those Burroughs, who are rich, populous, and Trading, as appears by the Scheme, are not more likely to judge of the true Interest of *Scotland*, than the other that are poor and insignificant in Trade, tho' in Number superiour? The Calculation is as follows, and I am assured from very good Hands that it is very just.

The Assembly, call'd a Convention of the Burroughs, is a Kind of Parliament by it self, they meet in Parliament Time to consider of Trade, and represent their Demands to the Parliament. There are in *Scotland* 66 Burroughs, every one of these send one to represent them in this Assembly, and the City *Edinburgh* only sends two; so that the Assembly consists of 67 Members, of whom the Lord Provost of *Edinburgh* signs as *Preces*, as you see by the Copy.

They frequently send Commissioners to their Representatives in Parliament to represent them here. But they are not obliged to do so, and to save the Charges of sending up one on purpose, when they are not willing to name their Parliament Man, they name some of the Inhabitants of *Edinburgh*, who have some Relation to the said Burrough; by which means they are not always Men understanding the Interest of the Burghs, or principled for their Benefit; I do not say how it was now, but I proceed to my Calculation.

The Burroughs in *Scotland* pay one third of the Cess or Land-Tax of *Scotland*, being some of them rich trading Towns; when therefore an Assessment of 300 *l.* per Week or Month is laid on, the Burroughs pay 100 *l.*

Now to our Addressees.

- 44 of the Burroughs appear'd at this Convention.
- 23 were absent; and of the absent, I think, 'tis more rational to guess they were for the Union rather than *against* it, as not concerning themselves to oppose it.

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Of the Forty four that appear'd,
24 sign'd the Address,
20 refused it.

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The	24	that sign'd it, were for Burroughs, who all put together pay but 14 of an hundred Pound, or $\frac{1}{7.5}$ Parts of every Tax.	<i>l.</i> 14. — : —
The	20	that refused it, serv'd for Burghs that pay $\frac{6.9}{100}$ Parts.	<i>l.</i> 69. — : —
The	23	absent—were Burghs that pay $\frac{1.7}{100}$ Parts	<i>l.</i> 17. — : —
			<hr/> <i>l.</i> 100. — : —

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so that in Value of the trading Part of the Kingdom, the Addressers against the Union are about 14 to 69 — I need make no Comment upon it, 'tis writ only to undeceive those People, who are impos'd upon, to think that the universal Cry of the People of *Scotland* is against the Union; perhaps I may soon give as just an Estimate of the Gentry.

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